

Warden Message – U.S. Embassy, Quito, Ecuador

All Overseas Voters Have at Least One Option for Getting an Electronic Ballot

October 4, 2010

Voting for military members, their families and overseas citizens is easier now than ever before. More than half the states in the United States post absentee ballots online for military and overseas voters. Additionally, voters from all 55 states and territories can use the FVAP online Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot automated assistant to vote for at least all federal candidates.

In 2009, President Obama signed the Military and Overseas Voters Empowerment Act (MOVE Act) into law. MOVE Act requires all states to provide blank absentee ballots in at least one electronic format – email, an online ballot delivery system or fax – at least 45 days before an election.

FVAP produced the online Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot automated assistant which allows voters to access and mark an online ballot for federal elections. This is a back-up ballot if the voter does not get their regular state absentee ballot, where the voter can select their candidates online, print the ballot with the choices printed out on the ballot, sign the oath and return the ballot package by whatever means is allowed by the state (mail, email, fax or online system). The automated assistant provides voters a complete federal ballot specific by Congressional district with all instructions necessary to return the ballot to the election office.

The voter now has more time to review, mark, and return their ballot by the state deadlines. Being stationed or living away from home means it takes longer for ballots to get to and from voters. Past research shows late delivery of ballots is a top reason why absentee ballots from military and overseas voters are not counted. The combination of these systems and early ballot availability means that voters can have their ballot in hand to vote and return 45 days or longer before an election.

Additional information:

For more information, visit FVAP at: www.fvap.gov.

If you would like more information on the Federal Voting Assistance Program or need help with the absentee voting process, please contact FVAP at www.fvap.gov, 1-800-438-8683, DSN (312) 425-1584, or at vote@fvap.gov. Toll-free phone numbers from 67 countries are listed at: www.fvap.gov/contact/tollfreephone.html. With your feedback, we can make this even more helpful for the next election.

Helpful links:

U.S. Embassy, Quito Voting Information Site: <http://ecuador.usembassy.gov/service/living-in-ecuador/voting-overseas.html>

Federal Voting Assistance Program: <http://www.fvap.gov/>

National Voter Registration form: http://www.eac.gov/voter_resources/register_to_vote.aspx

U.S. Election Assistance Commission: <http://www.eac.gov>

Overseas Vote Foundation: <https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/>

- OVF on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/ythvoteoverseas>
- OVF in Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Youth-Vote-Overseas/110570138939>

Americans living or traveling in Ecuador are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate and to obtain updated information on travel and security within Ecuador through the [Department of State's travel registration website](#).

U.S. citizens should consult the [Country Specific Information](#) for Ecuador and the latest Travel Alerts and Warnings and Worldwide Caution at the [Department's website](#). Updated information on travel and security in Ecuador may also be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States or by calling 1-202-501-4444 outside the United States.

The U.S. Embassy in Quito is located at Avigiras E12-170 y Eloy Alfaro. The telephone number for American Citizen Service (ACS) inquiries is (011 593-2) 398-5000. Within the same city use the last seven digits. Add the city code for intercity telephone calls. Public call-in hours are Monday through Thursday 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. and Friday 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Appointments for ACS are available through our [website](#).

The [U.S. Consulate General in Guayaquil](#) is located at the corner of Avenida 9 de Octubre and Garcia Moreno (near the Hotel Oro Verde); telephone (011-593-4) 232-3570 during business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or 232-1152 for after-hours emergencies.

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